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GLOUCESTER AND HER CRITICS

We think the news- paper friend of ours who said that outside of Bos- ton, take it the year round, Gloucester was the greatest news-producing centre in Massa- chusetts, was pretty near right. But it strikes us that some of the metropolitan papers are not even satisfied with the amount of news Gloucester produces, but use the city and its industry for a sort of a stand by or something to fall back on when things are dull and they must have something to fill up with.

One, after reading some of the articles, most- ly editorial, can imagine the writers lying back and yawning, trying to think of something to fill out a column, when some chap has what he thinks is a bright idea, and laughingly calls out to another, "Say, Jim, it's mighty dull and we've got to fill up with something, write some- thing about the Hay-Bond treaty and Bond's exclusion act and soak Gloucester; we've got to have something you know to pad her out with." And while we can almost hear the fellow addressed say, "What in blazes do I know about the treaty, or Bond's act, or Glou- cester either?" Yet we see him buckle down to the typewriter, and next day we read a col- umn or so landing Sir Robert and his treaty and his act to the skies, while Gloucester is consigned to the demnition bow wows.

Now this is just the way a great many Gloucester people feel when they read some of these kind of editorials in some of the big pa- pers. They feel that somebody had to write something to fill out a day's work and he fell back on Gloucester and the fisheries and Sir Robert Bond and his exclusion act.

Gloucester's course since the late edict of Sir Robert Bond in shutting American fisher- men off from the privilege of buying bait licen- ses and his new, novel and entirely original in- terpretation of the treaty of 1818, has been very dignified. Not a yip or a cry has come from Gloucester in protest. No wail has been sent up which has reached to Washington or even as far as Boston for that matter. She has made no protests, official or unofficial, but has gone along and attended strictly to busi- ness, while some of these papers, printed in Boston and elsewhere, have been devoting column after column of space to tell how wrought up Gloucester is and how the fishing industry is threatened with destruction be- cause we can't buy bait for our bankers at Newfoundland.

And they go on and tell how everything would be if—if what? Here is the whole se- cret of their ravings—if congress would pass the Hay-Bond treaty and let Newfoundland bring her fish of all kinds free into the Ameri- can market. That's the whole thing or nearly so. The free fish is the only thing Newfound- land wants of us, and this certain of our cap- tains of industry and millionaire manufacturers think we should give them in order to secure trade concessions which they desire.

Newfoundland says "give us free entrance for our fish into your markets and you can have anything you want," and so these barons of trade, already rich, some of them about rich enough to buy the whole city of Gloucester alone say, "What do we care for the protection of Massachusetts' oldest industry, give New- foundland free entrance for her fish if she wants it and let her kill the New England fishing industry, what do we care as long as we get what we want?"

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And that is about the size of the whole question which these papers are working themselves into a frenzy over and driving it into Gloucester, while that place is tending strictly to business and not saying a word.

And what is Gloucester's position? It is simply this. She admits that many times the price of a bait license at Newfoundland to secure bait has been worth all that was paid for it. She also contends, and on this point she is irrevocable, that the privilege of buying licenses to secure bait at Newfoundland never was, is not and never will be worth the price which is practically demanded,—the adoption of the Hay-Bond treaty with the clause allow-

ing the free entrance of Newfoundland salted fish to United States ports.

Gloucester has watched and learned of the passage of Sir Robert Bond's bill to deny them the privilege of buying bait licenses there in the future and has made no word or protest because she knows that a protest would be un- availing and that Newfoundland has a right to take the above stated step. This has been done and Gloucester has not cried baby. Her fleet has gone to the banks just the same and they have fished as if there was no such a place on the map as Newfoundland. After using the baiting which they took from home they have had no trouble in securing another baiting on the Nova Scotia coast and are now on the banks fishing away just the same as ever and doing well, thank you.

As to the interpretation which Sir Robert Bond places upon the Hay-Bond treaty, not only Gloucester, but the whole fishing inter- est of the Atlantic coast and most of our statesmen beg to differ, and this difference later will undoubtedly be a matter for the higher authorities of England and the United States to pass judgment upon as to who is right and who is wrong. Sir Robert's inter- pretation has not as yet had the sanction or seal of approval of the throne or the Minister for the Colonies and the chances are not too good that it will, so until it does, nobody in Gloucester is worrying much about it. All that Gloucester asks is to be let alone or to be placed in her proper light before the public. She is going quietly along and minding her own business, why not quit giving her a knock or a shove every day in the week."

The Boston Herald, in a long editorial yes- terday, dwells at length on the situation, the three following paragraphs being clipped from the article.

"The taking of fish does not consist in buy- ing them, although this is the manner in which for years past the Gloucester fishermen have "taken" frozen herring on the south coast of Newfoundland. As Dwight Foster, who was our consul at the Halifax fisheries convention thirty years ago, asserted:

"No rights to do anything upon the land are conferred upon the citizens of the United States under the treaty of 1818. So far as the herring trade goes, we could not, if we were disposed to, carry it on successfully under the provisions of the treaty, for this herring trade is substantially a seining from the shore, a strand fishery, as it is called, and we have no right anywhere conferred by treaty to go ashore and seine herring. We have no right to go ashore for any purpose anywhere on the British territory except to dry nets and cure fish."

"This would seem to dispose effectively of any claim the American fishermen could ad- vance in the matter of herring, a trade which each winter has taken scores of Gloucester

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fishing craft to the south coast of Newfound- land. These fish have been bought of the Newfoundland fishermen, who have ordinarily held them frozen in store awaiting the arrival of American vessels, and have then sold them to the highest bidder for cash."

This certainly reads first rate, but attention is called to the fact that the high authority quoted, Mr. Dwight Foster, made the remarks credited to him, some 30 years ago, and since then the methods of fishing have changed in that part of Newfoundland as well as almost everywhere else. Mr. Foster speaks of the herring fishery as being seining from the shore, a strand fishery, whereas now and for years on the treaty coast the use of seines for catch- ing herring has not been allowed and has in most places, particularly at Bay of Islands and Bonne Bay, been prohibited by law and only nets can be used to take herring. This would seem to dispose of this portion of the Herald's argument.

Then the article speaks of buying frozen herring and also the buying them of New- foundlanders who held them in store awaiting the arrival of American vessels. In regard to this, it is a matter of common knowledge to all who have looked into the matter of the herring fishery and desire to know about it as it really is that skippers of vessels are emphatically ordered to buy no herring which have been frozen but to secure their herring fresh from the boats, paying the fishermen for their labor at the rate of so much per barrel for their work. The herring are not bought in a fro- zen state but are frozen after being secured by the vessel and after the men in the boats have been compensated for their labor in catching them.

Again the article speaks of the Newfound- land fishermen ordinarily holding the herring frozen in store awaiting the arrival of Ameri- can vessels. This statement would make even a Newfoundland fisherman laugh, for it is a well known fact, that is to anyone who knows anything regarding this Newfoundland her- ring fishery that our herring catchers are there so long before the frost comes that some of them go equipped with apparatus for arti- ficially freezing herring and secure cargoes and are home often before any herring are frozen by natural frost.

As a matter of fact the Newfoundland fish- ermen do not store up frozen herring awaiting the arrival of American vessels. As a matter of fact the American vessels are "Johnny on the spot," and are there before the frost comes at all and secure the herring as fast as they are caught.

All the herring that the Newfoundlanders store up awaiting the arrival of American vessels to buy would not make a breakfast for a dainty dog. These are only two points which have been taken up and wherein they were wrong pointed out, but they are only a sample of about how near right about half the statements in this connection are which have been printed about Gloucester and the fishing industry since the proposed Hay- Bond treaty was first conceived.

Alewife Bait.

Frank Stevens had 20 barrels of fresh ale- wives from Essex yesterday.

There were 200 barrels of alewives in the pockets at Edgartown yesterday and no vessels there.

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DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Margaret, Peak, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish,
2000 lbs. halibut.
Sch. Kernwood, via Boston.
Sch. Emily Cooney, via Boston.
Sch. Northern Eagle, shore.

Vessels Siled.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
Sch. Flayilla, shore.
Sch. Seaconnet, seining.
Sch. Kernwood, shore.
Sch. James S. Steele, shore.
Sch. Braganza, seining.
Sch. Vera, seining.
Sch. Lucinda I. Lowell, seining.
Sch. Manhasset, seining.

Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade prices for salt and fresh fish:

Salt fish, handline Georges cod, \$4.50 per cwt. for large, \$3.75 for medium; trawl Georges cod, \$4.25 for large, \$3.50 for medium; trawl Bank cod, \$3.62 1-2 for large, \$3.37 1-2 for medium; hake, \$1.25; pollock, \$1.25; haddock, \$1.75; large cusk, \$2.50.

Fresh fish, large cod, \$2.12 1-2; medium cod, \$1.62 1-2; all cod caught to the eastward of LaHave bank, \$1.87 1-2; medium \$1.50 cusk, \$1.62 1-2; haddock, \$1.00; hake, 85 cts.; pollock, 70c; snapper codfish, 60 cts.; snapper cusk, 60 cts.

Bank halibut, 8 cts. per lb. for white and 6 cts. for gray.

Boston.

Sch. Matchless, 27,000 haddock, 12,000 cod, 10,000 cusk.

Sch. Sachem, 4000 cod.

Sch. Nettie Franklin, 3000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Juniate.

Sch. Annie Perry, 30,000 haddock.

Sch. Rapidan, 6200 haddock.

Sch. Robert and Arthur, 40,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 15,000 cusk.

Sch. Dixie, 5000 cod.

Sch. Valentina, 8500 haddock, 9500 cod.

Sch. Busma, 45,000 haddock, 35,000 cod, 3000 hake, 500 cusk.

Haddock, \$1.75 to \$2.50; large cod, \$2.25 to \$2.75; market cod, \$1.75 to \$2.25; hake, \$1.50 to \$3; cusk, \$1.75.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Seaconnet has fitted for mackerel seining and will sail south today.

FAVORS OTTER TRAWL.

Gloucester Man Urges Their Use by Nova Scotia Fishermen.

Mr. Fred T. Page of this city is not one of those who hold the opinion that the use of the Otter trawl on the Atlantic is impracticable. He writes: "I for one know that with a little experience it can be worked all right on the Atlantic coast as much as it can be done on the Atlantic coast as much as it can be done on the Banks of Iceland. I have had my experience both at Iceland and the North Sea, where the bottom is as rough as the Himalaya Mountains, still we would have mishaps, but that did not amount to anything more than a line trawler to lose its whole string of line trawls. Let this kind of fishing come into vogue and you will find that the fishermen of Nova Scotia would say farewell to the dory and its lumbered up cargo of trawl tubs and anchors, which is enough for them to contend with without going to the trouble of putting their catch in the same. I must say that I hope that it will be Nova Scotia to have the first praise to introduce the same."

Mr. Page, we believe, is or was the janitor at the Fishermen's Institute, and was one of the crew of the beam trawler Resolute on her first trip from here some years ago.

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SCH. SPECULATOR IS IN.

Has 1600 Large Fresh Mackerel in Count.

Two Netters Also in New York with Good Fares.



The first arrivals at Fulton Market, New York, this morning were two netters, the Ida L. Miller and the Stephen Woolsey, each with 500 fresh mackerel.

Just before 10 o'clock a seiner, whose approach up the harbor had been made known and which proved to be the schooner Speculator, Capt. William Corkum of this port, arrived with 1600 large fresh mackerel, being the fourth seiner to reach Fulton Market this season.

The Speculator is owned by Hugh Parkhurst & Co., and this firm has been fortunate enough to have two out of the first four trips to arrive there, one of their other seiners, the Patrician, having the first trip in there this season. Another dispatch received later states that another seiner is coming up the harbor bound for Fulton Market with a fare of fresh mackerel.

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OFF BARNEGAT.

Where the Seiners In Yesterday Got Their Fish.

Captains Report High Winds and Very Cold Water.

(Special to the TIMES.)

"Do not be surprised if you have to pay \$30 a barrel for your salt mackerel this year," said Capt. Joseph Smith and Capt. Frank H. Hall, at Fulton Market yesterday. On being asked the reason for this statement they replied "High winds and cold water."

Capt. Smith said that they had cruised for three weeks between latitude 36 and 38 and had beautiful weather and did not see a fish. Since April 5 however the weather had been cold and accompanied by high winds. The temperature of the water had been 47 and 48 in 40 fathoms and 50 in 15 fathoms.

Capt. Hall said that he saw fish twice but that they went down before they could get in to the boat. The catches which these two captains landed at New York yesterday were made 12 miles off Barnegat.]

Sch. Mary E. Harty, Capt. Eben Lewis, arrived at New York this afternoon with 60 barrels of fresh mackerel.

Sch. Constellation, Capt. Thaddeus Morgan, also arrived this afternoon at Fulton Market with 125 barrels of large fresh mackerel.

SMALL TRIPS AT NEW YORK.

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Six Seiners at Fulton Market with Fresh Mackerel.

FISH BRING 20 CENTS EACH.

The Big Spurt Last Season Began a Year Ago Today.



Six seiners were at Fulton market, New York, up to 10 o'clock this forenoon. All of them had small fares and the fish are selling at 20 cents each. The trips are as follows:

Sch. Norumbega, Capt. John A. McKinnon, 3300 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Monitor, Capt. Benj. A. Spurling, 2300 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Priscilla Smith, Capt. William J. Corkum, 2500 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Grayling, Capt. Reuben Cameron, 2000 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. S. F. Maker, Capt. S. Campbell Peart, 2500 large fresh mackerel.

Sch. Mattakesett, Capt. John O'Brien, 1400 large fresh mackerel.

A year ago today the seiners began their famous spurt, landing many big fares at Fulton Market. Previous to this date the fleet had landed more than 1000 barrels of fresh mackerel.

NO ICE THERE.

Magdalene Islands Now Clear Says a Late Despatch.

Traps for Bait Were Put Down Yesterday.

A dispatch to Orlando Merchant from Birch Cove, Bay of Islands, N. F., received yesterday stated that sch. Lewis H. Giles sailed from the bay on Monday, bound for this port.

The Giles is one of the fleet of frozen herring vessels which was frozen in there last winter and has since remained there. She has a cargo of frozen herring which will be brought here and put in the freezer either here or at Rockport.

A letter from Bay of Islands dated April 26 from Mr. Robertson to Capt. Thomas Hodge states that the ice was breaking up in the bay but seemed to be not started. However, he expected that Mr. Hodge's sch. Hattie M. Graham would be able to get out this week.

Although the past winter was the most severe for 25 years at Newfoundland yet the ice has broken up at Bay of Islands much earlier than last year, as sch. Talisman, the first vessel home of the frozen in fleet last year, did not get out of the bay until May 20.

The vessels caught at Bay of Islands the past winter were schs. Hattie M. Graham, Arabia and Lewis H. Giles of this port and Annie M. Parker of Boston.

The ice has cleared away from the Magdalene islands. A telegram from House Harbor, Miquelon, to Capt. William H. Thomas dated May 1 says, "Magdalene Islands now clear of ice. Am setting traps tomorrow." The despatch is from a very reliable source and is therefore to be depended upon.

Last year the first vessels for bait were able to reach the Magdalenes May 11.